

Research Activity Panel Meeting Summary

Gregor M. Cailliet, MLML, RAP Chair

MAY RAP MEETING

Host: Naval Postgraduate School (Jeff Paduan and Leslie Rosenfeld)

Friday, May 15, 1998

0900 - 1200

Attendance: 14 RAP members and 4 guests.

PRESENTATIONS

Overview of activities at NPS (Jeff Paduan)

- A detailed overview on students, budgets, courses is available in a book/handout;
- Information is also available at web site: <http://www.nps.navy.mil/>
- NPS has largely Master students from the U.S. Navy; foreign officers and a few other military branches attend NPS as well
- Arrangements have been made with UCSC allow students to take classes at either institution; NPS would like this model to expand throughout the Bay region
- Example research projects include: models of global warming; nearshore sand transport; El Nino effects; numerical models of internal tides, grid nesting, and sea breezes; Monterey currents; upwelling
- One study found interesting links between internal waves "pumping" cold water to the surface in the southern section of the Bay may cause increased food for, and feeding activity of whales in this region
- CODAR research, which has resulted in several recent theses, has resulted in an a grant which created a Coastal Ocean Observing Network (funded at \$ 2.4million over 2 years). The model domain is from Ano Nuevo to south of Pt. Sur.

Diver Disturbance in Kelp Forests (T. Schaeffer)

- A written report is available from the MBNMS office and an abstract of the project can be read on the web site: <http://color.mlml.calstate.edu/www/groups/phyc/projects.htm>
- In increasing numbers of ecosystems (rocky shores, coral reefs, wetlands) there is a question of impacts of human visitors. There is no information on divers impacts in kelp forests, so this question was addressed in this project
- The project found that divers do disturb habitats, but the impacts relative to storms and other disturbances still needs to be evaluated
- The RAP suggest that Sanctuary work to assist in education on how divers may limit their impacts by sending flyers to dive shops, informing Bay Net Volunteers, and setting up signs at appropriate locations. Some RAP members are interested in compiling information on kelp canopy changes through time because they are interested in the kelp harvesting issue. It was felt the MBNMS could assist
- The RAP will read and comment on the quality of the science in the report, make recommendations on other research needs, and suggest how education and outreach

could be improved. Panel members agreeing to do this include: Chris Harrold (Chair), Giacomo Bernardi, Mike Field, and Andrew De Vogelaere

- The RAP asked that the SEP consider this report relative to improving outreach

Sustainable Seas Expeditions (A. De Vogelaere)

- PURPOSE: Marine Exploration using submersibles; Sanctuaries as the Equivalent of National Parks; Establishing Field Monitoring Stations
- FUNDS (over 5 years): 5 million dollars from the Golden Foundation; \$ 775,000 from the National Geographic Foundation
- PRINCIPALS ON THE GRANT: Sylvia Earle, Francesca Cava, Steve Gittings and Bill Riley
- PLATFORMS: Deep Worker (potential others), McArthur, Point Lobos, (others?);
- TRAINING: October through December in one week blocks involving scientists, sanctuary personnel, etc.
- PROJECT PERIOD FOR 1998: April 1 - 19;
- POTENTIAL SCIENTIFIC PROJECTS: Rockfishes in harvest refugia areas; Marine Observatory and Squid;
- SCIENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE PROJECT: Greg Cailliet-Chair, Geoff Wheat, Mary Yoklavich, Rick Starr, Chris Harrold, Bruce Robison, Bill Douros, Andrew DeVogelaere
- Initial RAP recommendations:
 - add a pilot pod to the Deep Worker so the scientist can focus on the science;
 - it is critical to change the date (April is generally a bad weather time for launching vessels from on board ships and poor launching might result in bad public relations and less Deep Worker time for exploration and research.

DISCUSSIONS

The National Ocean Conference updates (G. Cailliet)

- Monterey Bay Ocean Consortium is large group addressing NOC potential projects
- Monterey Bay Crescent Ocean Research Consortium is a smaller group headed by Marcia McNutt and M.R.C. Greenwood; creating a memorandum of understanding between research groups to share resources, enhancing flow of resources to build on regional research capabilities. This group recognizes the regional focus but does not exclude national/international outgrowth. This is an outgrowth of the Griggs publications and work with CORE, along with RAP. Not solely for the National Ocean Conference
- A "Living Oceans Agenda" proposal has been presented to President Clinton to:
 - inventory America's Ocean Fisheries, Wildlife, and Habitats
 - revitalize our Nation's Living Marine Resources and Ocean Waters
 - create an Ocean Conservation Investment Fund
 - create a national Pilot Project on Regional Ocean Sustainability. Signatories include numerous regional research and conservation groups.

Sanctuary Currents: planning '98 (C. Pomeroy and G. Cailliet)

- Bruce Richmond will be the Research/RAP representative for next year's Sanctuary Currents.

Dates and times for RAP meetings (A. De Vogelaere)

- Members like the Friday mornings for meetings
- Andrew will send out the modified schedule:
June no meeting;
July 10, MBARI;
August 14, CSUMB;
Sept. 11, MBEST.

SHORT INFORMATION ITEMS:

Verbal items:

Update on Big Sur road dumping (A. De Vogelaere)

No soil will be dumped into the ocean this year, extensive vegetation on the bare ground is ongoing to minimize erosion, a comprehensive plan is being developed for long term management of the area.

Legislation update (C. Pomeroy)

Details are changing daily; see the legislation web site for update on these key legislation items: AB 1241, AB 1000, SB 2, SB 1363, AB 2404;

Pillar Point Abalone monitoring plan request from RWQCB (G.Cailliet)

The MBNMS RAP has provided input on this project already, and the information seems to have been considered. However, at this time, the RAP referred reviews of the environmental impact statements to staff at the California Coastal Commission and Water Board. Andrew was asked to inform the RWQCB about the RAP decision.

Handouts were distributed on the following:

MBNMS Permit Report
MBNMS Newsletter
Diver Disturbance Study Report

New Business

- Steve Moore will be a new co-representative for CSUMB on the RAP, with Rikk Kvitek
- Andrew, Chris, and Greg will work on re-vitalizing membership for MBARI and Hopkins Marine Station
- Groundbreaking for the new NMFS lab in Santa Cruz will be held during the National Ocean Conference, probably on June 10th.